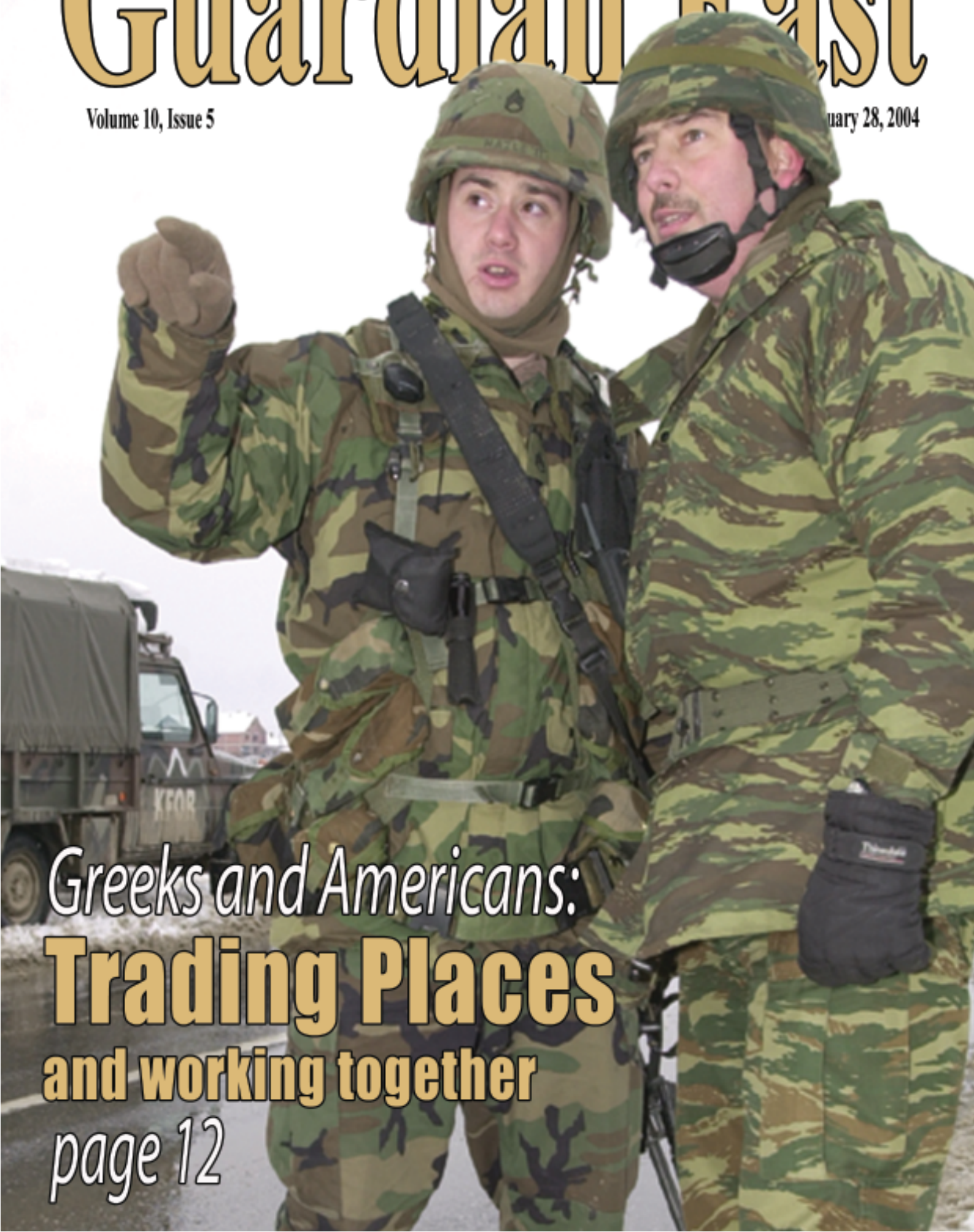


Produced For Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

# Guardian East

Volume 10, Issue 5

January 28, 2004



*Greeks and Americans:*  
**Trading Places**  
*and working together*  
*page 12*



# Message to the troops



## By Lt. Col. Louis Fazekas Commander - Task Force Paxton

As we near the end of our seven-month rotation in Kosovo, I want to thank all the Soldiers in TF Paxton and the Soldiers from 1-107 FA, 1-112 IN, 1-213th ADA, 1-103 AR, 3-103 AR, 128 FSB, Medical Detachment, and HQ 28th ID that joined our team for their dedication, commitment and sacrifice over the past eleven months. Every Soldier can be proud of TF Paxton's accomplishments in Kosovo.

A special thanks also goes out to all the military and civilian support personnel that have helped make our stay at Camp Bondsteel more enjoyable, such as MWR, laundry, photo shop, mess hall, Education Center, theater and PX to name a few.

For the past three months TF Paxton Soldiers have had the pleasure of developing a great working relation-

ship with the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion and the Greek Battalion while conducting over 75 joint patrols within MNB(E). This experience has allowed our Soldiers to gain a better appreciation for our multi-national partners during the execution of our mission.

Many of our Soldiers have also enjoyed spending non-duty time in competition with both battalions during the Camp Bondsteel "Iron Man Challenge" and Polish-Ukrainian sponsored "Iron Challenge". Both battalions have been gracious hosts by inviting U.S. KFOR to numerous dinners and holiday celebrations. I want to thank both battalions for their hospitality, professionalism and friendship.

Our mission in Kosovo has been very rewarding both personally and professionally for all our soldiers. Many will leave here with a lifetime of memories (and photographs) from their weekly duties that include live



**Lt. Col. Louis Fazekas**

radio and TV shows, attending municipal press conferences, municipal working group meetings, NGO meetings, local schools visits, MEDCAPS, mounted/dismounted patrols and day-to-day personal contacts in sector. We have all developed a deeper appreciation for the rich history, culture and traditions of the people of Kosovo.

One of the promises I made to the Soldiers' families and friends before we departed on March 4, 2003 was to return everyone home safely. I ask for everyone's support during the last four weeks to continue to remain vigilant and drive defensively. Safety must be everyone's top priority!

Finally, I would like to wish all the soldiers in MNB(E) success in their civilian and military careers. As the people of Kosovo often said to me, "I wish you Good Health, Long Life and Success to you and your family."

**STRIVE, OBEY & ENDURE!**

## SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

[www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil)



**Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to [guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil](mailto:guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil).**

**COVER: Greek Cpt. Ionnis Kouridakis, right, decides which car to pull over with Staff Sgt. Jason Hazlett at a traffic stop in the Greek sector of Kosovo. Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum.**

*See page 12 for the story*

## Guardian East

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### About Guardian East

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*Sgt. Joshua Ferrilli, an infantryman with Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, speaks with a caller Dec. 13 during a weekly radioshow at Radio Premeira in Kamenice/ Kosovska Kamenica that features Soldiers from the unit as hosts. Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy. See page 18 for the story.*

## **Military Police**

**MPs of Camp Bondsteel patrol the streets and deliver gifts to neighbors.**

## **SAVT Training**

**Some Soldiers of Camp Monteith receive realistic training on the Small Arms Virtual Trainer.**

## **Retention NCO**

**Sgt. Molly Wales gives Soldiers the opportunity to extend their current enlistment contracts while deployed.**

## **Drill Major**

**Maj. Marc Ferraro has been many places in his 21-year career, including one place many officers have not: Drill Sergeant School.**

## **Cover Story**

**Greek and American soldiers swap places in camp to get an idea of the other's duties.**

## **Liberty Lounge**

**Formerly known as the Canteen, Liberty Lounge offers soldiers and civilians a place to relax and feel some of the comforts of home.**

# MPs

## Hitting the streets

Soldiers of the 1137th Military Police Company rolled their humvees through the streets of Gnjilane/Gjilan, but they weren't looking for criminals, exactly, just for some conversation while they were conducting what is known as a Police Intelligence Operations patrol.

In contrast to a Law and Order patrol, where the MPs respond to incidents as they occur, a PIO tries to stop trouble before it can surface. The main objective is to gather intelligence about the area, possibly find people on a detain list, and put a finger on the pulse of the community by interacting with the local population, said Sgt. Kurt Harre, an MP with the company.

"You've got various people out there," Harre said of the response he gets from area residents during these patrols. "A lot of people are here to talk to us and let us know what's going on in their community."

The missions come down in the morning, said Harre. The patrols are then directed to a general area where the Soldiers of the 1137th perform their PIO.

"They give us a lot of discretion because they want us to be able to go out and do what they need done, but afterward still patrol around," said Harre.

As the MPs cruised through the streets, they decided to stop at a coffee shop to talk to the people there. The owner invited the group in, offered them coffee, and after a few questions sat down to talk. Cpl. Skyler Tienter, a policeman in the civilian world as well as here, asked him about general things: people in the area, attitudes toward the Kosovo Police Service, and life in general. According to Tienter, the invitation to sit, talk and have a coffee is a gesture that shows respect for KFOR and a growing acceptance of his presence as a Soldier.

"Ninety percent of the job is listening and talking to people. Just finding out what's going on," said Tienter. "The interviewing from law enforcement training back home is a little different than interviewing people here because we're not necessarily trying to find something wrong. It's almost like you're talking on a friend-to-friend basis."

In that way, Tienter said, the PIO patrols seem to be working. On one stop, three children ran to the patrol before they could enter the building, shaking hands, saying hello, and talking excitedly.

"I think the biggest difference that we've made is with the children," Teiner said. "We're having a more positive impact with them than anybody else."

As time went on, the sun went down and night fell. Shops closed and the lights in homes clicked off as citizens of the town drifted off to sleep. The Soldiers of the 1137th found the last minutes of their shift winding down, and after fueling up their vehicles, the group headed back to Bondsteel to turn the night over to the next group to watch over Kosovo.

## And delivering the goods

Santa wore green and Christmas came a little late to the town of Vrbovac/Vrboc, but it came nonetheless as the Military Policemen of the 1137th MP Company made a surprise visit to the town community center bearing gifts on the last day of 2003.

"A few weeks ago when we went out there we were playing soccer with the kids," said Sgt. Jeff Gittemeier, who arranged for the coats, shoes, and pants via his civilian job at the St. Charles, Mo. post office. "It was one of the cold days – 20 or 25 degrees. When the kids came out they didn't have coats; they didn't have snow boots," he said. "It just broke our hearts."

The post office, Gittemeier said, organizes such an event every year. Sometimes the event is a canned food drive or a "toys for tots" program. This year they decided to recognize his KFOR mission by sending seven boxes of clothing to give to the Kosovar people.

"It makes me feel like my time over here was actually worth it," Gittemeier said. "Like I'm helping give something back."

The leader of the community center, Zoran Krcmarevic, was pleasantly surprised when the Soldiers showed up at his doorstep bearing gifts. He showed his thanks by sitting the Soldiers down and saying so over an offered cup of Coca-Cola.

"Thank you for the visit," Mr. Krcmarevic said while pouring the Coke. "Thank you for helping my people."

"We hope people would do the same for us," Gittemier responded.





◀ **Sgt. Jeff Gittmeier, a military policeman with the 1137th MP Company, gives Zoran Krcmarevic, the community officer of the town of Vrbovac/ Vrboc, clothes donated by the post office where Gittmeier works in his civilian life.**

**Sgt. Kurt Harre, left, a military policeman with the 1137th MP Company, checks the detain list with Gittmeier before hitting the streets of Gnjlane/ Gjilan on a Police Intelligence Operations patrol.** ▶



▲ **Harre talks to his fellow MPs on the streets of Gnjlane/ Gjilan before talking to residents during a routine PIO patrol.**



▲ **Harre checks the Global Positioning System when starting out on a PIO patrol, which involves going to popular places and talking with citizens to understand attitudes within the community.**

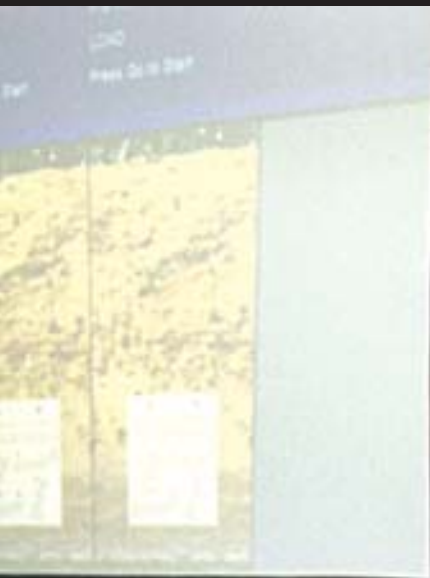


# Ready, Aim, Fire

Several Soldiers stood outside a brown-shuttered residential building awaiting orders to enter on a sweep and clear mission. Once the word was given to move out, the Soldiers bounded up the front walk and onto the porch. After a last minute check of their surroundings and without warning, the Soldiers threw open the door and burst inside. Moving as a team they cleared the foyer and

Sgt. Gregory Boatwright, left, of the 321st Psychological Operations Company, and Sgt. Josh Nitz, of the 320th Psychological Operations Company, engage targets on the Small Arms Virtual Trainer at Camp Monteith.





began to work their way up a set of stairs. They heard a noise from upstairs and a woman came rushing down from the second floor, pausing on the landing area when she saw the Soldiers. Startled, she let out a scream and threw her hands in the air to show that she was unarmed. A single shot rang out and the woman collapsed to the floor.

Luckily for the woman, the scenario was not real. The mission to sweep and clear

was one of many scenarios that can be run on the Small Arms Virtual Trainer, a computer-run system that gives Soldiers the ability to train on things from a simple zero range to more complex squad movement drills. In addition, scenarios such as the sweep and clear mission can be run where Soldiers must make split-second decisions whether or not to use lethal force.

Using a laser system to track the movement of the weapon, the system is able to track the simulated bullet's trajectory while adding outside factors such as wind and distance that affect the shot.

The targets Soldiers engage are computer-generated simulations projected

on screens, but the weapons are real.

"They're actual weapons, with modifications," said Don McGraw, a civilian contractor who runs the SAVT at Camp Monteith, during a recent training session. "The modifications being the black umbilical cord that runs from each weapon. That umbilical cord applies high pressure air and electronics to the weapon."

The pressurized air is what moves the weapon's bolt as well as provides the recoil, which adds to the realism of the system, McGraw said.

And the realism is one reason why many Soldiers feel the system is a beneficial training aid.

*(See SAVT page 21)*



# Staying around?

**Sgt. Molly Wales is a must see.**

Story and photo by Spc. Sean McCollum



Soldiers' priorities may change during their enlistment in the Army. They could start families, dedicate themselves to college, or they may just decide they've done their service to their country and are ready to move on. Whatever the reason, Soldiers inevitably start thinking about leaving the Army, and that's where Sgt. Molly Wales comes in.

Wales is a retention noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company 56th Brigade. She is, she says, a guidance counselor, a Soldier's shoulder to cry on, and

arguably one of the best friends a Soldier can have if they want everything they're entitled to in their Army career.

"My philosophy is an educated Soldier makes an educated decision," said Wales of the way in which she approaches retention. "I have a checklist in my head. I find out where they're at in their career, where they're at with regard to education, what it is they're looking to do, and then I kind of work with that."

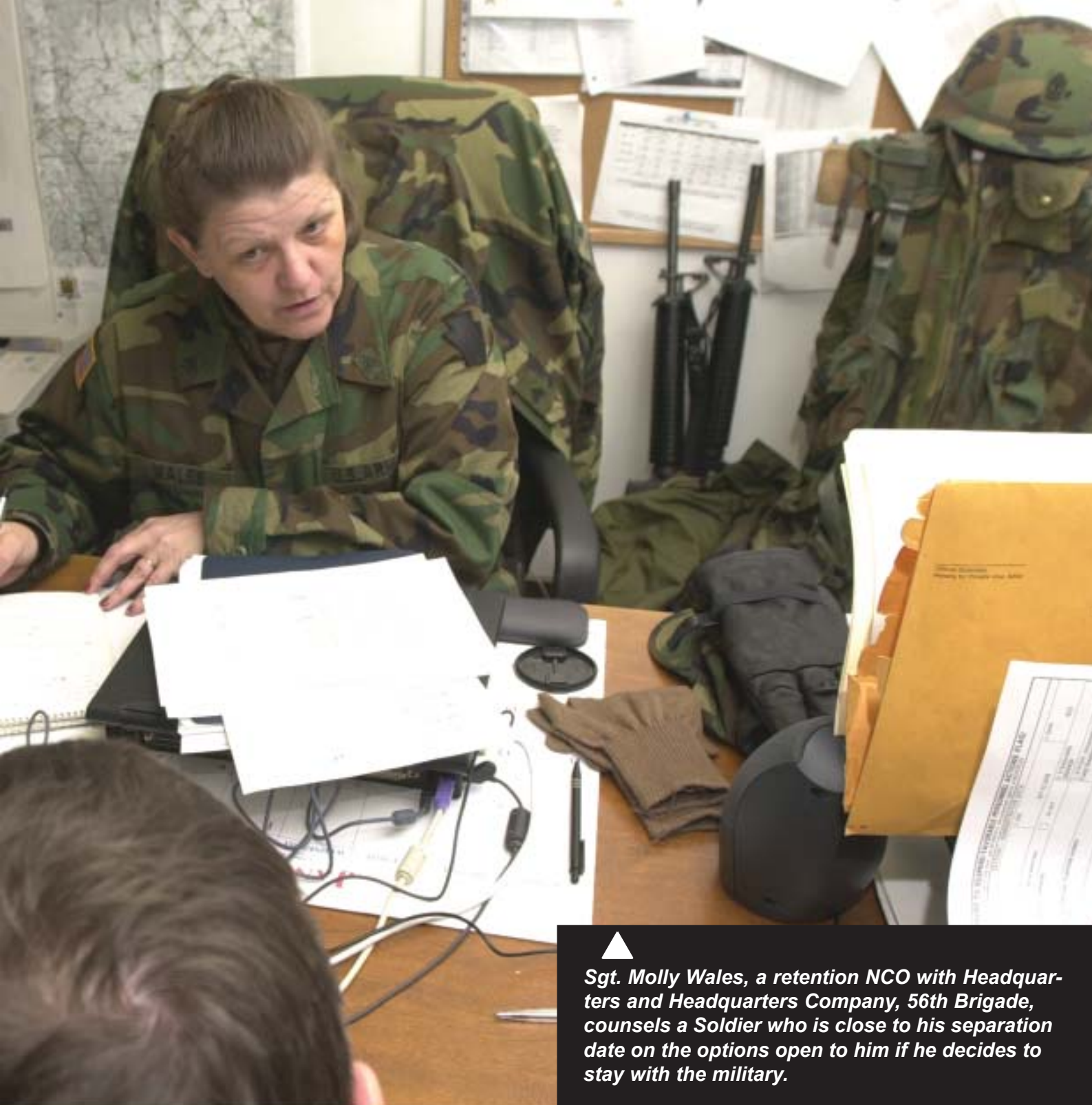
To this end, Wales uses the mandatory Estimated Time of Separation briefings with Soldiers as an opportunity to showcase college

benefits, career changes, and the ever-popular tax-free bonus available for reenlisting in a designated combat zone such as Kosovo.

"I'm not a hard sell person," Wales said. "All of my interviews are based on providing them information and then saying, 'OK, can you make an honest decision?' I'd say about 80 percent of the people who come out of interviews say, 'Y'know? I learned something.'"

Some also reenlist. Spc. Robert Hoppell, a computer operator with the Operations section of HHC, 56th Brigade, had no plans to sign up again when he began this deployment to





▲  
**Sgt. Molly Wales, a retention NCO with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade, counsels a Soldier who is close to his separation date on the options open to him if he decides to stay with the military.**

Kosovo.

"Being all of a sudden pulled from home – it's kind of like, 'Whoa, I can't be doing this. I've got to leave.'"

When he discovered the deployment wasn't as bad as he thought it would be, he went to Wales for a year extension. But once he talked to her, he changed his mind.

"She showed me the bonus they had to offer with the three year [extension] which I didn't know about," Hoppell said about why he enlisted for longer than planned. "If I did it here it would be tax free. So I guess that was a definite positive influence to sign up for three years."

Other Soldiers, such as 1st Sgt. Harry Buchanan of Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry, don't do it for the money. A 24-year-veteran with an ETS of Jan. 21, Buchanan didn't receive a bonus due to his time in service. Instead he decided to shoot for a higher personal goal of rising to the rank of Sergeant Major by having Wales help him extend

his enlistment for six more years.

"I had a goal when I first got in," Buchanan said of his reenlistment. "I've exceeded that goal. Each time I come close to meeting it I set a goal higher. My goal now is for Sergeant Major."

Having served for so long, Buchanan knows what makes a good retention NCO.

"There's a lot of kids I've seen come through the program that come in for college and don't know every little penny they're entitled to, and a good retention NCO knows that."

A good retention NCO also knows how many Soldiers have responded to her message. So far, Wales said, she has reenlisted 90 Soldiers in her tour at Bondsteel and hopes to crack the 100 mark before she leaves in February.





*Marc Ferraro*



# A rare path chosen

**T**he Tactical Operations Center of Camp Bondsteel includes a lot of “behind the scenes” business. If you work outside the TOC, you may wonder what goes on inside a building that requires a secret pass to enter, is surrounded by a blackened fence topped with concertina wire, and has no less than two armed guards at the entrance.

If you work inside the TOC, you know it takes a lot of people to keep a building of that nature running. And those people need and have a lot of experience. There is one Soldier whose sole responsibility is to keep the TOC running. Maj. Marc Ferraro is the task force operations officer.

Ferraro has over 21 years experience in the Army and has been to many places and schools over his career. The schools include Military Police Officer Basic Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Infantry Basic Course, as well as the Airborne and Pathfinder schools, to name a few.

But Ferraro has been to one school that most Soldiers have not been, especially officers — Drill Sergeant School.

“It’s very rare,” said Ferraro of seeing an officer with a “This We’ll Defend” patch on their right blouse pocket.

Early in his career the opportunity to earn the patch was presented and he took advantage of it.

“At the time, I was enlisted and they put a call out for drill sergeants. I was always fascinated with the drill sergeants from basic training,” said Ferraro. “The ability to help and train people to overcome their fears and grow just drove me to volunteer for the program.”

The decision proved to be both a great learning and a very rewarding experience for Ferraro, who was a 19-year-

old active duty sergeant at the time.

“To be able to look at the young kids and take them from a civilian to a Soldier, overcoming things that they never thought they could do, like the obstacle course — that and watching them graduate are great rewards.”

The intense training in Drill Sergeant School and being a drill sergeant prepared Ferraro for a future as an officer and eventually as an instructor at Reserve Officer Training Course.

“One of my first tours in the guard as an [active guard and reserve] officer was as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Temple University,” said Ferraro. “In essence I

was doing the same thing that I was doing as a drill sergeant: training young kids to be officers that never had any related experience. Of course it was an entirely different environment and setting, but I was able to relate a lot to the drill sergeant days, like how to train the soldier and what techniques to use that they don’t teach an instructor in ROTC to do like they do in drill sergeant school. I was able to carry that into the ROTC world.”

From basic training instructor to ROTC instructor to the operations officer of the TOC of Camp Bondsteel, Ferraro has been many places and had many experiences, but one tops his list.

“The knowledge and background that you get from being enlisted,” said Ferraro, “and being a private in basic training then going back and teaching it lets you never forget where you came from.”

Does Ferraro have plans of hanging it up after his 21st year and 10th deployment?

“No, not anytime soon,” he said. “Not until they force me out.”

**Maj. Marc Ferraro has chosen to go from being a Drill Sergeant to an officer during his 21-year career. But, it will not end here as he plans on continuing his career “until they force me out.”**

**Story by Spc. Rob Barker and photo by Spc. Sean McCollum**



# *Trading*

Greek and A

*Greeks in the 1-110th*

**Four days in a foreign  
would it be like? E  
speaking their language  
Greek 506th Mechaniz  
and Charlie Compan  
found out when they  
Americans to Camp F  
Greeks to Ca**

See page 14 for the Greek story and

Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy



# y Places

American units swap soldiers

*Americans in the 506th*

in Army camp. What  
eating their meals,  
age. Soldiers from the  
ized Infantry Battalion  
ny, 1-110th Infantry,  
were swapped—the  
Rigas Fereos and the  
mp Montieth.

nd page 15 for the American story.

Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

# The Greek story

By Sgt. Jon Soucy

**S**gt. Dimitrios Deligianniois and Master Sgt. Kostantinos Stamatopoulos, both assigned to the Greek army's 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, sat at a small table peering over an equally small map of their home country. As other soldiers peered over their shoulders and gathered around them, the tip of a pen was used to point out the location of their hometowns as well as other locations in Greece that were important to both men. Though the names of the towns they identified—Veroia, Alexandroupolis, Samos—were familiar names to them, for some gathered around the names were as unfamiliar as town names in Kosovo were when they first arrived.

The Greeks were sharing stories about their country with Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry during a recent squad swap between the two armies. Four soldiers from the Greek army spent four days living and working with Soldiers from Charlie Company and soldiers from both sides felt that the experience was positive.

"It's fun working with them," said Staff Sgt. Fred Walters, a squad leader with the company "I think it's a positive thing. Many of my guys wanted to do it from the get go. We wanted the experience of seeing how other armies are, how they work, and working with other soldiers."

"It's good because everybody sees something new, something we don't have in our camp" said Deligianniois, who has participated in the squad swap on two previous occasions. "And you learn – you can see how [other soldiers] work."

And learning new things was something that several soldiers took away from the experience.

"I learned some things from them," said Greek Spc. Nikolaos Vamvakousis, an infantryman with the 506th, referring to the Soldiers from Charlie Company, "and I believe they learned some things from us."

Some of the things learned from the American Soldiers were how they set up and conduct a vehicle checkpoint, their methods for conducting patrols, and some of the ways in which they interact with the local residents, said Vamvakousis. All were things that the soldiers from the two armies did during their time working together.

The Greek soldiers taught the American Soldiers some of the customs of Greece as well as some of the meanings of the country's national symbols, such as the symbolism behind the blue and white of the Greek flag—sea and sky.

In addition, working together gave each group of soldiers the chance to compare personal equipment, assigned weapons and vehicles, as well as the time to talk about family and friends back home.

For both groups of soldiers, the main obstacle to the event was, like many other situations in Kosovo, the language barrier.

"The difficulty is the language," said Deligianniois, who learned English from his sister. "Our language," he said with a wry smile, "is all Greek to you."



*Spc. Nikolaos Vamvakousis, left, and Sgt. Georgios Panagiotios, both Greek infantrymen with the 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, stand reflected in the window of a home near Koretin as Staff Sgt. Fred Walters, a squad leader with Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, speaks with the owner concerning a hunting permit. Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy.*





# The American story

By Spc. Sean McCollum

**D**uring a routine briefing before engaging in a patrol, Capt. Ionnis Kouridakis of the Greek 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion was prepared. He had maps, graphs, a handheld erasable board, dry erase markers, and a plan for the checkpoints his men would run that day. The briefing hit a snag when the number eleven came up in reference to the code used to signify which car to pull over.

"Will that be eleven in English or eleven in Greek?" one of the Soldiers asked.

It was a fair question. The Soldier asking was American Staff Sgt. Jason Hazlett, an infantryman with Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, who was participating with two other Soldiers from the company in a program that would immerse them in the Greek Army for four days.

"We were sent over here to see how they do their thing," said Hazlett. "We sent one team here and they sent a team back to Monteith just to see how things are different between those nation countries."

At the vehicle checkpoints the two camps switched off searching responsibilities. Kouridakis, the operations officer for the 506th, took the lead when it was his turn. He conducted his searches under the watchful, stone-faced eyes of both camps with loud, almost playful calls to the stopped drivers of "Get out, my friend!" and "Where is your bam bam?"

The methods of the Greeks and Americans, said Hazlett, were not that different.


"Our whole outlook of who's where, who does what is almost completely the same," said Hazlett. Besides an armored vehicle guarding the rear, a few more Soldiers, where the checkpoints are placed, and some other minor details, Hazlett said ways of approaching the concept of a vehicle checkpoint were very similar.

The event did, however, give the infantrymen a chance to learn about Greek hospitality as well as their methods. After working the checkpoints and a dismounted patrol in the Greek-guarded village of Babljak/Bablak, the patrol retired to the 506th's dining facility. Mashed potatoes, meat loaf with egg, tzatziki, a cheese salad, and fresh bananas from the homeland were served on porcelain plates.

The food was only one of the many signs of hospitality and cooperation the visiting Americans saw during their four-day stay.

"They made sure that we knew what was going on so the flow of information was good," Hazlett said. "Any problems that we encountered on the way were dealt with right away."

Over the four days, the Greeks and Americans discovered their differences and similarities and learned how to better work together, but perhaps most importantly, they came together for the common cause of helping keep Kosovo secure.



**Greek Cpt. Ionnis Kouridakis, right, the operations officer for the Greek 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, converses with Staff Sgt. Jason M. Hazlett of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, at a Greek camp in the village of Babljak/Bablak. Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum.**



**Hazlett receives his dinner from Sgt. Georgios Fantaoutsakis of the Greek 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion after a day of joint patrolling in the Greek sector of Kosovo. Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum.**

# LIBERTY LOUNGE



*Spc. Eddie Bates, an account technician with the 628th Finance Battalion, grabs free supplies from Liberty Lounge Jan. 6.*

*Liberty Lounge, located in Admin Alley, provides Soldiers and civilians at Camp Bondsteel with a feeling of home while on deployment.*

**W**hile living and working in Kosovo, there are days when we want to feel a family atmosphere again. Finding a place with that kind of ambience is sometimes difficult while deployed, but hidden deep in the heart of "Admin Alley" is a place devoted to supplying the comforts we often miss. Amid shelves of books, magazines, and a wide-screen television, a smiling face greets you inside the small room. Military or civilian, there is always someone to welcome you at the Liberty Lounge.

Spc. Phyllis E. Baker, a hostess at Liberty Lounge and member of the 2-104th Aviation

Detachment, is one of the main reasons the lounge is in the great condition it is today and offers the quiet family atmosphere it does.

"Since I came here, I have cleaned it up," said Baker. "There is always coffee, hot water for tea, cookies and candy out."

While some might see the lounge as redundant considering the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities, Baker said the lounge offers something different to the soldiers.

"We are different than MWR because they offer more recreational activities where we want to promote a home-like atmosphere."

People seem to appreciate the work Baker is doing.

"Spc. Baker has been a positive impact on the morale of the soldiers who frequent the Liberty Lounge," said 1st Lt. Craig Wiley, company commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion. "I am very proud of the work she has done to help all of the Soldiers of Task Force Falcon."

Other than Baker, Lindita Marina and Aferdita Shabani are the two Kosovars that work at the lounge, and once Baker leaves sometime in the coming month, they will take over her job completely.





Story and photos by  
Spc. Tim Grooms



*Liberty Lounge provides soldiers and civilians with comforts from home in a cozy atmosphere.*

*Spc. Phyllis E. Baker and Lindita Marina, both hostesses at Liberty Lounge, organize issues of "Stars and Stripes" for people to read.*

"I love to be able to help Soldiers when they come in," said Marina, who has to take the hour-long bus ride from Gjilan/Gnjilane to get to work.

With a friendly staff in place, the lounge is a place Soldiers and civilians can watch movies, read books, play chess, and pick up needed supplies: tooth brushes, razors, writing tools, notebooks, shaving cream, etc.

"I go there to get a copy of 'The Army Times' and to get copies of 'The Stars and Stripes' when I miss getting them at the dining facility," said 1st Sgt. Henry Watkins of Charlie Company, 1-151st Aviation (Attack).

People in the states, includ-

ing Baker's sister and Soldiers that have been here, donated most of the things in the lounge. The movies were contributed by Blockbuster video, and about another 100 were donated by a kind gentleman from New Jersey who wanted to do something to help the Soldiers here, Baker said.

"This saves me money," said Spc. Eddie Bates, an account technician with the 628th Finance Detachment, on picking up some dental supplies. "There is no reason to spend money here at Camp Bondsteel."

Not all came to save money. Some are happy to see the steaming pot of coffee sitting on the counter.

"The soldiers really enjoy the coffee here," said Baker. "Although, one of the specialists that comes in does not like it when I mix a holiday flavor to the coffee."

Other than giving out supplies and books on a regular basis, Friday evenings offer some entertainment.

"On Friday night after nine, we invite Soldiers to come and watch a movie. One time I ordered six pizzas," said Baker.

With a considerate staff and plenty of books and magazines to look over, the Liberty Lounge is a place to visit if you need supplies or just a break, and it might just help you feel a little closer to home.





*Spc. James Haught, an infantryman with Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, dances in his chair while working the mixing board at Radio Preimeria in Kamineca. Soldiers from the unit take part in a radio show each Saturday evening where they take requests, work the board and talks to callers.*



# Patrolling by day; Jockeying by night

**There are many well-known disc jockeys: Wolfman Jack, Howard Stern, Casey Kasem, DJ Ferrilli and DJ Haught. Perhaps the last two may be not be as well known to most, but Sgt. Joshua Ferrilli and Spc. James Haught, both with Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, have been taking to the airwaves Saturday nights at Radio Premiera in Kamenice/Kosovska Kamenica.**

Story and photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy

**T**he infantrymen, who are among a rotating group of Soldiers in the unit to host the show, run a two-hour program taking requests, talking with callers, and playing music native to the region as well as from American artists.

For Haught, who has played the role of DJ at a few clubs back home in Pittsburgh, the opportunity to play music on the radio was a somewhat different experience.

"We're actually mixing records," said Haught of the club experience. "You're constantly trying to keep the crowd moving. Here, you don't have to worry so much about that."

And for Ferrilli, the radio experience has been a nice change of routine.

"It's fun. It's something different," said Ferrilli. "I like hanging out with everyone, and just the experience of doing this is great."

Haught had similar sentiments about being on the radio.

"It's great to kick back a little," agreed Haught. "I like getting to listen to my own music and seeing what the locals listen to," said Haught, adding that Bob Marley seemed to be popular in the area.

Generally, when the Soldiers run the radio show one works the mixing board and selects the

music, and the other takes requests from listeners and talks with them on the air with the help of an interpreter.

Though both Soldiers enjoy the experience, at times it can be stressful.

"It's fun, but nerve racking," said Ferrilli. "Sometimes you don't know when to come in because [the callers] are speaking Albanian."

"It's such a fast pace [the translator] can't always translate it to you," Agreed Haught. "That's probably the hardest part – knowing when to interject."

The Soldiers agreed that many times it runs more smoothly when the two of them are talking with listeners.

"It's better with both of us doing it because we can feed off one another," said Haught.

"We do the best we can," said Ferrilli. "It's better when we can play off one another," he said, adding that on one occasion the interpreter had to kick them under the table to signal them to interject something into the conversation.

And for the Soldiers, hosting the radio show is a positive interaction with the people in the area.

"It's a good way to show the people that we're not all business all the time," said Haught, "and it's fun."

## Redeployment and reintegration for the single soldier

By Spc. Ryan B. Tyrrell  
brigade deputy chaplain  
assistant

**T**he chapel lights dim, the projector focuses onto the wall, and dozens of single soldiers in the audience take their cue to catch up on a few minutes of sleep. What is this opportune time for many of our single brethren among MNB(E)? It is another meaningless check-in-the-box called Redeployment and Reintegration training; or so they think.

All too often the prior example occurs. Unattached soldiers often tune out the message presented to them, simply thinking that this particular briefing is meant only for SGT Snorkel, who is married and a father of fifteen children. While many of the scenarios portray married individuals and their relationships with significant others, many of the same tips given in them are applicable to interaction with parents, friends, siblings and co-workers.

I am not going to regurgitate to you the briefing that you will have to attend before you depart Kosovo, but I will take this opportunity to present some relevant advice that may not have been covered. Moreover, since a certain someone back home plans to have me "on orders" in a few months, I better draft this quickly, whilst I still know everything.

### 1. Re-enrolling in School

Before this deployment, many of us single types were attending some form of higher education or another. While you probably will not need to "take-it-slow" with the admissions office, it is helpful to contact them as soon as possible when you settle in stateside. Many schools have specific procedures students must follow if they are re-enrolling after a deployment. Often, policies change from one year to the

next, and you can almost count on a sizable tuition increase. All of this is good information to find out before you end up yet another semester behind schedule due to something that would have been corrected with a simple phone call.

### 2. Lovers Grow Apart – Friends Can Too

Usually when people think of two people feeling awkward around one another after a deployment, they usually think of the intimate aspects that occur between husband and wife. What many people fail to realize, is that a certain form of discomfort can arise between even the best of friends. Let's face it; they have been home, living their life normally. Many changes may have occurred in their lives, almost as stark as in ours. We may feel jealous of them, for they were able to enjoy the comforts of home for the past year. On the other side, they may be jealous of us for the accomplishments we have made during this deployment. The key here is to understand that the world did not come to a grinding halt back home the day you left. Do not let the changes that have occurred frustrate you, and be patient when renewing acquaintances. They may have developed new friends, and at first, you may not feel like the key cog in the wheel. Give it time, and you may find that their new friends can become new friends of yours as well.

### 3. Save Your Money

It probably is a little late to put aside enough money to start a small business, but it is a good idea to set aside what money you can these last few paychecks. I know this may be more difficult for some of you to do than performing the mission here itself. While the \$8,000 DVD collection you have accrued during this deployment will keep you entertained for some time, having some

money available when you get home may prove to be invaluable. As I mentioned earlier, if you were attending a university or trade school, a tuition increase is likely in your future. Some of us will be going home jobless, and will need some money to get us over the hump until we find our next employer. Others will have repairs to do on their automobiles and homes. I hope that we will not find ourselves in these situations, but in this case, it truly is better to have and not need, than need and not have.

### 4. You're Home Now – Act Like It

For months, we have dreamed of the day when we can return home and get on with the lives we were accustomed to before this deployment. Many will resume those lifestyles quite easily. For others it may be more difficult. We probably will not want to admit that this deployment was as difficult as it really was, probably because as a whole, we have exceeded the standard in this mission. Granted, KFOR received little news coverage in comparison to Iraq or Afghanistan, yet this mission was just as important to the people who live here, and almost as difficult to execute on our ends. Very few of us, this time last year, were accustomed to living and working in an environment such as this, and resuming the lives we lived twelve months ago could present a challenge. Relax, and allow yourself time to decompress. Avoid the trap of not acknowledging how hard we have really worked this past year. If possible, do some things that you find enjoyable when you get home, and allow yourself to put an emphasis on the citizen in citizen-soldier. Truly, it has been a long and difficult road to get here; be proud of your accomplishments and enjoy your redeployment.





**Sgt. Gregory Boatwright, a psychological operations specialist with the 321st Psychological Operations Company, studies his shot group at the Small Arms Virtual Trainer at Camp Monteith. Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy.**

### **(SAVT from page 7)**

"I like the fact that it's a very realistic training environment," said Spc. Rob Keck, a psychological operations specialist with the 321st Psychological Operations Company, who recently trained on the system.

"You can get a pretty good feel for what it's like shooting at different distances," agreed Spc. Chris Visser, a psyop specialist with the 346th Psychological Operations Company. "It's a very realistic simulation."

For other Soldiers, the realism is only one of the positive aspects of the system. In addition to the variety of scenarios available, Soldiers can choose to train on weapons ranging from the M9 pistol to an 81-millimeter mortar.

"You can train your personnel on everything," said Sgt. Brian Joseph, a psyop specialist with the 321st. "Just about anything you could want, they've got."

Another thing that the system allows Soldiers to do is brush up on basic marksmanship skills.

"Things like practicing your breathing and the proper sight picture are really the best things that you can practice here," said Visser, after his first time using the system.

"Those are things you always have to practice. That's where a lot of people mess up their shooting and if you can get more time practicing that, than the better off you are."

For most Soldiers, the positives of the system outweigh the negatives.

"It's a great facility," said Joseph. "I think it just needs to be updated a bit. The projectors are pretty old and a little out of focus for some of the targets we shoot at."

And the differences between the feel of the SAVT and an actual range are minimal.

"It's not as cold or wet," said Keck. "It's very similar to a real range, but you don't have to wear hearing protection."

While the SAVT is not quite real life, the Soldiers training on it said they saw it as a valuable tool. It is a place they can learn tactics, techniques, marksmanship, and, perhaps most importantly, they can learn from their mistakes and prevent tragedy when the bullets and people in front of them are not simulated.

## **North Chapel Worship Schedule**

### **Sundays:**

**0800 - Liturgical Protestant Worship**

**0930 - Roman Catholic Mass**

**1100 - Contemporary Protestant Worship1**

**400 - Gospel Worship**

### **Tuesdays:**

**1800 - Roman Catholic Adult Ed. Class**

**1900 - Roman Catholic Mass**

**2000 - RCIA**

**2100 - Contemporary Protestant Choir Rehearsal**

### **Wednesdays:**

**1700 - Roman Catholic Choir Rehearsal**

**1830 - Gospel Bible Study**

**2030 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal**

### **Thursdays:**

**1900 - Roman Catholic Mass**

**2000 - Contemporary Protestant Choir Rehearsal**

### **Fridays:**

**1330 - Islamic Prayer Time**

**1800 - Shabbat Prayer Time**

**1900 - Gospel Prayer Time**

**1930 - Gospel Bible Study**

### **Saturdays:**

**1200 - Contemporary Protestant Choir Rehearsal**

**1900 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal**

## **South Chapel Worship Schedule**

### **Sundays:**

**0800 - Roman Catholic Mass**

**0930 - Nondenominational Christian Service**

**1300 - Latter Day Saints Service**

**1930 - Nondenominational Christian Service**

### **Mondays:**

**1200 - Roman Catholic Mass**

### **Saturdays:**

**1930 - Roman Catholic Mass**

## Army Reserve Soldiers help train Afghan National Army

By Maj. Wayne Marotto

KABUL, Afghanistan (Army News Service, Jan. 15, 2004) – A group of observer/controllers who normally train deploying Soldiers returned recently from their own deployment, where they put their teaching skills to use with a foreign Army.

More than 30 observer/controllers from the 75th Division (Training Support), an Active component/Reserve component training support division headquartered in Houston, Texas, spent six months near Kabul training members of the Afghan National Army. They worked with Coalition Joint Task Force 180, headed by the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

Upon arrival at Camp Phoenix, the Soldiers separated into sections focusing on finance, light infantry, and installation operations. Maj. Isaac Johnson and Staff Sgt. Karmen San Nicolas set up a finance section that paid Soldiers at the camp in cash. Prior to that, they had to drive up to an hour away to Kabul or Bagram, which was sometimes difficult because of work schedules, transportation problems, or security concerns, said San Nicolas.

The 75th Soldiers worked closely with Afghan Soldiers to teach advance infantry tactics, organizational skills and leadership, for instance. They also served as examples of how professional Soldiers look and act.

The unit also assisted other coalition forces with helping the Afghan Army develop officer and non-commissioned officer corps. One of the points they stressed was that the Afghan officers should train their own Soldiers, with the U.S. and other coalition members offering training and advisement to the officers.

Capt. Craig Hickerson was at Fort Riley, helping mobilize reserve units headed to Iraq, when he volunteered for duty in Afghanistan. Hickerson, of the 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment, 3rd Brigade, has been on active duty since January 2002, when he himself was mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom. The events of Sept. 11, 2001 left a deep mark, he said.

"I wanted to do my part on the war against terrorism," said Hickerson, explaining his reasoning for voluntarily heading into a world hot spot. "I wanted to make sure the people of Afghanistan were safe and not mistreated."

Hickerson worked on a firebase, training Afghan Soldiers on light infantry tactics and patrolling, to better enable them to fight the Taliban and Al Qaeda. He survived a harrowing night when the firebase was attacked with rockets, presumably from Taliban operatives. Hickerson earned with Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star for his actions there. Hearing personal thank-yous from Afghan citizens who appreciated him and other American Soldiers being there meant a lot, Hickerson said.

"I'm really proud I got to be part of history," he said.

Volunteering to go to Afghanistan caused Capt. David Poland some grief with his parents, who were angry with him for essentially putting himself in a war zone. Poland is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm, where he served with the 3rd Infantry Division as a tanker.

Like Hickerson, Poland was training Soldiers at Fort Riley when he felt a responsibility to do something more for the war against terrorism. In Afghanistan, he mentored the commander of an Afghan rifle company by sharing his knowledge of organization, accountability procedures, training plans, and preparing for combat missions.

## Powell looks back to King's dream

### Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell remembers the first time that he, as a young black Army officer, was allowed to buy a hamburger at a drive-in joint in Phenix City, Ala. He credits Martin Luther King for the law that let him do it.

It was July 1964, when the Civil Rights Act was passed, "and I was able to go to the drive-in hamburger stand that had denied me service just a few weeks earlier [and] that now had to serve me," Powell said in an interview aired Sunday. "I'll never forget that particular day. ... And no one deserves greater credit for bringing about that day and that act than Dr. King."

Powell was interviewed for a syndicated television program on King titled "We Have a Dream," reminiscent of King's "I have a dream" speech at the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963.

That speech, Powell said, "was essentially a mirror placed in the face of the nation, and that speech said: 'Look at yourselves; look at us; look at who we are and what we are, and let's all have this dream.' And with that speech, he convinced all of America that what we had been doing was wrong and that things had to change."

Powell, whose last military job was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest-ranking soldier, attributed his career not only to King but to the civil rights leader's lieutenants including Jesse Jackson and Ralph Abernathy. Also, he said, black soldiers who fought thanklessly for their country: the post-Civil War Buffalo Soldiers on the American frontier; and the Tuskegee Airmen, the Triple Nickel Parachute Battalion and the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

"All of them went and served their nation over a period of close to 300 years of military service in this country when they were ... asked to give blood for the nation but were not going to get the privileges of being citizens of this nation," Powell said.

"But they did it anyway. They did it anyway in the certainty that sooner or later right would triumph and our Constitution would be made whole."



# SECTION Q N' A:

## What are you going to miss the most about Kosovo?

**Spc. Donald Taylor**

*"I'll miss working with some of the locals. Some of them were friendly and fun to work with."*



Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

*Spc. Donald Taylor, a motor pool assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade, keeps track of needed repairs on his computer.*

**Staff Sgt.**

**George Robinson III**



Photo by Maj. Gregory Tine

*Staff Sgt. George Robinson III, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-111th Infantry, plays with several children from Ardhmeria School in Gjilan/ Gjilane while the children visited Camp Monteith.*

*"The thing that I will miss most is the people here. We have met a lot of good people and we have made some friends that will be missed when we leave."*

**Spc. Jason Skirde**



Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

*Spc. Jason Skirde, a terrain analyst with 1007th Engineer Detachment scans a regional map into the computer.*

*"I am going to miss the snow and the mountains, because we do not see them in Alabama."*

**Sgt. Willie Lampenfeld**

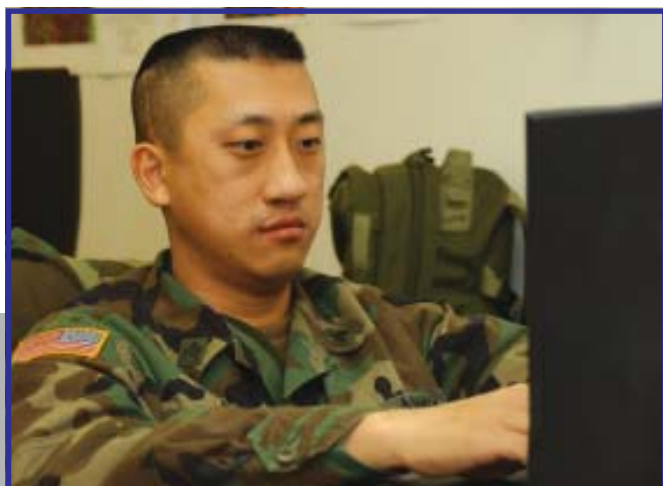


Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

*"I'm going to miss having everything done for me: my laundry, cooking, and cleaning."*

*Sgt. Willie Lampenfeld, assistant operations non-commissioned officer at the Joint Visitors Bureau with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade, finishes work on his computer.*

# *Scenes of Kosovo*

Grazing sheep move closer to the child standing by the tree in the Shar Mountains. Photo by Spec. Tim Grooms.

